

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2002

Attendees:

Art Donoho	Gene Arnesen	Janet Fiero	Catherine Robertson
John Foster	Sue Benjamin	Shana Gillette	Jane Ross
Greg Gnesios	Nadja Brozina	Shane Henry	Bob Sherrill
Warren Gore	Steve Chaney	Neal McKinstry	Julie Stotler
Doug Hall	Mike Click	Chad Niehaus	Paul Toft
Bob Silbernagel	Steve Cohn	Phadrea Ponds	Russ Van Koch
Russ Walker	Jim Cooper	Dave Price	

Greetings and Introductions

Bob Silbernagel agreed to chair the meeting since Dan Rosenthal is on vacation and Warren Gore is not present at the meeting due to the fire. Bob opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Greg Gnesios, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Manager, asked attendees to introduce themselves and then discussed some housekeeping issues.

Field Trip and Working Group Updates

River Corridor Working Group:

Russ Walker gave an update on the River Corridor Working Group. The group had their fifth meeting, held on May 28, and will not have another meeting until fall 2002.

By the next meeting, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should have developed alternatives, and Northern Arizona University (NAU) will be finishing up its surveys. The group will be interested in looking at the analysis of National Conservation Area (NCA) visitor use.

An Advisory Council member asked if there was information available on what other river offices charged for river rafting. Art Donoho responded that most offices have a lottery system.

One valuable aspect about the Ruby-Horsethief stretch of river is the lack of a permit system, allowing for spontaneous trips. A council member asked if there was data on how many people float the river on an annual basis, as well as the average duration of their trips. Gene Arnesen, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner, indicated that most people

stay one or two nights on the river and use non-motorized craft. A council member asked if a permit system is really needed with current usage, and the response was that a permit system would probably be needed in the future.

On one of the River Corridor field trips, 40 to 50 sites were identified where 5 to 20 people could camp. A council member asked how this would change if we were able to acquire the private land, and these numbers would probably increase 10 to 20 percent. If the land was acquired by BLM, charging fees or making any drastic changes in river management, could be delayed.

A council member asked why there were no signs marking campsites. The Working Groups definitely do not want signs along the river. Most people are familiar with the river and related regulations; approximately 21 percent are first-time users.

Mack Ridge Working Group:

Since John Foster has been working in the field a lot, he has turned this update over to Gene. The group has had two field trips, with the first field trip starting at the Kokopelli Trailhead, looking over Rustlers Loop and Horsethief Bench. The group then traveled on the frontage road to Lions Loop. The group got a good overview of the area. There is a concern that the paths are too narrow for both mountain bike and equestrian travel. The group is considering optional routes for equestrian users, as well as options for trail connections and trails that would be mountain bike or equestrian only. Signage is needed at different locations to show what the trails have to offer.

Some would like to see little or no motorized groups here. There are some two-track roads that could offer motorized use, but since there is not too much use, these roads could be closed. As a result, the only motorized use in this area would allow for administrative and/or ranching access. The group discussed what areas are being proposed for closure to motorized use.

A map is being made that will show all trail proposals for the area. A council member asked if these areas were being proposed to exclude equestrian users. Some people are concerned about the safety of the area, and the group is trying to find alternative trails for equestrian users. Mountain bikers make up 70 percent of the area's users. Some people are concerned that the equestrian use in the area will increase; however, Gene does not feel this will be an issue.

A council member asked the equestrian group present if they used these trails. Some of the "old timers" have always used these trails, long before the mountain bikers came along, and they would like to see this area remain open to them. A visitor commented that most equestrian users prefer the Rabbit Valley area. Another visitor commented that the area is still being used by horseback riders and should remain open for their use.

Gene said the Working Group is not trying to stop equestrian use in the area; they are only looking for alternate routes. The Working Group would like to see Moore Fun

Trail kept open. The group wants to prohibit horseback riders from using the Mack Ridge Trail and Mary's Loop, instead finding alternate routes for that user group.

A council member asked if there was anything new on the state land acquisition. Catherine Robertson, BLM Grand Junction Field Manager, responded there is nothing new to report; however, the issue continues to be discussed. The State Land Board has placed this item on its next meeting's agenda. Catherine felt this would not be a problem, and the acquisition would go through.

The council, visitors, and BLM discussed future management actions concerning trails and restricting horses to existing trails. Bicycles cause cupping in the road and this makes it hard for horses to use the trails, which also presents a problem. It was stated that horses do not damage the terrain, and therefore, should not be restricted.

Rabbit Valley Working Group:

Art Donoho reported that the two biggest issues in the Rabbit Valley area are the private land acquisition and management of the area across the Utah border. The group would like to move the big event area, but this is not possible because of problems caused by blowing winds. Typically, equestrian and motorcycle events taking place in springtime can be miserable because of the winds. The private land in Rabbit Valley would provide an area better suited to large events.

Dumping trash along the highway needs to be dealt with, and the fence along Highways 6 and 50 moved closer to the highway. South of I-70 should be made a "no shooting" zone. The group is working with Jim Cooper, BLM Transportation Planner, to develop an off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail system. There are issues with trails traveling through private land, and Art said there is one landowner who may want to build in this area.

The Working Group will have another meeting, scheduled for July 8 at the BLM office; however, the conference room is being used by fire people and may be unavailable. Jim will have a map of the proposals for both new trails and trail closures, and the group then hopes to make recommendations for a new trail system.

Wilderness Working Group:

Bill Schapley is not present at the meeting, and Jane Ross, CCNCA Planning and Environmental Coordinator, will give the report. The biggest issue discussed at the last meeting is that the group would like to limit motorized use on the newly acquired land north of BS Road. They also discussed dispersed camping and handling future camping issues. The slickrock areas along BS Road provide good sites for dispersed camping.

The group discussed the Mee Canyon Trailhead and its future. The group is considering a new map with three different options: 1) move the Wilderness boundary to the allotment fence, 2) cherry-stem the parking lot so it is not part of the Wilderness, or 3) move the parking lot entirely. These items will be the next meeting's topics. The group will also further discuss dispersed camping in the area.

Jane was asked to go over the upcoming field trips. Gene said these dates are on the Federal Register Notice (attached to these minutes). Field trips include the Wilderness Front Country, Mack Ridge, and Rabbit Valley on July 26, 2002; the River Corridor tour on August 3, 2002; and Glade Park on August 17, 2002. The Federal Register Notice provides alternate dates.

Greg mentioned that BLM is looking for a change of venue for the Advisory Council meetings. The new location being considered is located in the County Hall nearby. This will also need to be published in the Federal Register.

At the last meeting, the council talked about requesting a 12-month extension for completing the Resource Management Plan (RMP). The BLM Colorado State Office felt that a 9-month extension would be more appropriate, but both recommendations have gone to the Washington Office. Greg has not heard back, but there is optimism that we will receive an extension.

The council discussed safety issues at Mee Canyon. The ladder that is in place is not bolted down and could create a safety problem. The signs should probably be changed to show level of difficulty. The council also discussed Rattlesnake Arch Loop, which requires climbing down, and then up, through the first arch. The council feels this should not be called a trail. The carsonite signs should be replaced with signage that indicates "end of trail."

The first loop at the Fruita Paleontological Area is open. Everything, including signs, should be installed within the next few weeks, just in time for Dinosaur Days.

The group took a break at 4:10 p.m.

U.S. Geological Survey Presentation:
"Visitor Attitudes Toward Charging Fees"

Phadrea Ponds, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), introduced herself and her colleague, Shana Gillette. Their slide presentation is attached to these minutes.

The purpose of this program is to determine both obstacles and opportunities for management of a fee demonstration program. The USGS staff will take surveys between the months of March and May, then analyze and provide survey data to BLM. They will not suggest a fee be charged; the survey will only help BLM retrieve reference data for the future. This is anticipated to be a yearlong project, finishing next June.

The group had questions regarding project costs and objectives. It was explained that Washington is paying USGS to conduct the surveys, and the analyses should assist BLM in developing the RMP by providing information about users, other than attitudes toward charging fees.

Steve Cohn commented that if the survey is conducted in March through May, they could miss the peak season for river use. The USGS staff said they would discuss this timing with their people.

BLM Utah Rims Plan Update

Chad Niehaus, from the BLM Moab field office, discussed the 15,000-acre area adjoining Rabbit Valley known as Utah Rims. The Utah Rims management plan is only a proposal at this time, and there are no maps currently available.

Moab is in the process of OHV designation in this area, and is changing to a system with all trails designated for OHV use. There will be 32 miles of single track, and 32 miles of jeep trails. A huge opportunity exists for single-track use in this area, as well as Rabbit Valley. Most of the area's users see Rabbit Valley and Utah Rims as one area. The plan is to maintain continuity and figure out the best way to do that.

A visitor commented that they needed to see the plan as soon as possible to ensure that motorized use is allowed. Both Jim and Chad would like to implement a joint plan for Colorado and Utah. People are accessing Utah Rims via Rabbit Valley, so there is probably no need for a staging area. A council member voiced concern over vehicle traffic on the rim, which could further damage this area.

A council member commented about how important consistent management is. It was asked if a rider travels into Colorado from Utah and needs to report an issue, which BLM office the rider would contact. This issue will need to be resolved as there are different magistrates for each state.

Russ Van Koch, BLM Moab, said a Federal Register Notice would be published to amend the 1985 RMP for Utah Rims. Visitors wondered if comments could be received through the Grand Junction office, and Russ responded that comments would need to be received at the Moab field office.

A visitor asked if Moab would maintain a mailing list. Russ responded that Moab is not set up for a mailing process, and the public is encouraged to use their web site for comments.

BLM Colorado will also have information about the area since Moab and Grand Junction will be working together.

Catherine suggested a link be created on the NCA web site for BLM Utah.

A visitor commented that the planning process in Colorado would be done before Utah even receives notification back from Washington. Russ said he did not feel this would be an issue because BLM Utah's proposal is fairly simple.

BLM Wildfire Update

Catherine discussed the fires in Glade Park and Long Canyon. She also discussed the fire ban that prohibits solid-fuel fires, unless in a designated campground using a designated fire grate. Catherine had a map showing all the homes located in the Glade Park area and how dangerous a fire could become. This is the first time we have had an evacuation.

Catherine discussed the importance of prescribed burns versus mechanized treatment. Mechanized treatment still leaves fuel, which remains a problem. A wildfire burns hotter than a prescribed fire, and because of this, prescribed burning as a way to minimize wildfires is beneficial in promoting re-growth.

A council member commented that it is only a matter of time before there is a big fire in the Wilderness area. Catherine replied that there has already been a fire and discussed fire-fighting policies in a Wilderness area. Catherine has the authority to authorize chain saws in a Wilderness area. Human health and safety are the most important priorities.

At this point, the group took a break.

CCNCA "Wildlife Issues"

Ron Lambeth, BLM Wildlife Biologist, gave a slide presentation on some of the wildlife found within the CCNCA. Attached to these minutes is a list of wildlife found in the CCNCA.

Public Comments

Eric Rechel commented on plant and animal habitat and expressed his concern that users need to keep this in mind when visiting the CCNCA.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

(CO-01-134-1610-241A)

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council Field Trips

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior

ACTION: Notice of Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council Field Trips

SUMMARY: The Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Advisory Council will conduct field trips into the CCNCA on July 23 and 26; August 3, 17 and 31; and September 7 and 21, 2002. All participants will meet at the BLM Office located at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado at 8:00 a.m. except on August 3, 2002, when participants will meet at the BLM Office at 7:30 a.m.

DATE: The trips will be conducted on July 23 and July 26; August 3, 17, and 31; and September 7 and 21, 2002.

ADDRESS: For further information or to provide written comments, please contact Greg Gnesios, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; telephone (970) 244-3049 or e-mail Gregory_Gnesios@co.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The CCNCA Advisory Council will accompany field personnel from the Grand Junction Bureau of Land Management Office on informational trips into the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. The trips will allow Advisory Council members to familiarize themselves with the CCNCA, analyze relevant issues, and cross-feed information on concerns identified to date through public scoping, working groups, and Advisory Council meetings.

On Friday July 26, 2002, all participants will meet at the BLM Office located at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, before 8:00 a.m. Departure from the BLM office will be at 8:00 a.m. The groups will tour the Wilderness Front Country, Rabbit Valley, and Mack Ridge areas of the CCNCA.

On Saturday, August 3, 2002, all participants will meet at the BLM Office located at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, before 7:30 a.m. Groups will depart from the BLM office at 7:30 a.m. and will tour the Colorado River Corridor, starting at the Loma Boat Launch and ending in Westwater, Utah.

On Saturday, August 17, 2002, all participants will meet at the BLM Office located at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, before 8:00 a.m. Groups will depart from the BLM office at 8:00 a.m. The groups will tour the Glade Park area and the Wilderness.

The remaining dates of July 23, August 31 and September 7 and 21, 2002, will be used to address other issues as appropriate. All participants will meet at the BLM Office located at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, before 8:00 a.m. Groups will depart from the BLM office at 8:00 a.m.

Topics of discussion on all trips will include travel management, recreation, land health assessments, use authorizations, natural resource management, wilderness stewardship, education, cultural resources, wildlife, partnerships, interpretation, adaptive management, and socioeconomics. All tours will be open to the public. For information on the field trips contact Jane Ross at (970) 244-3027, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506, or e-mail to Jane_Ross@blm.gov.

DATED: June 5, 2002

Greg Gnesios

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Manager

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CO-13400
8014

June 5, 2002

National Archives and Records Administration
Mr. Raymond Mosley
Director of the Federal Register
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Mr. Mosley:

Enclosed are three signed original copies of the Notice of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council field trips to be held in July, August, and September 2002. The first trip is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2002 and the last trip is scheduled for September 21, 2002. Additional meetings will be held. All meetings will be open to the public. Also enclosed is a Word Perfect diskette certified to be an original copy of the original signed document.

Please publish the notice as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Greg Gnesios,
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Manager

Enclosures:

Signed original copies of Federal Register Notice (3)
Word Perfect diskette

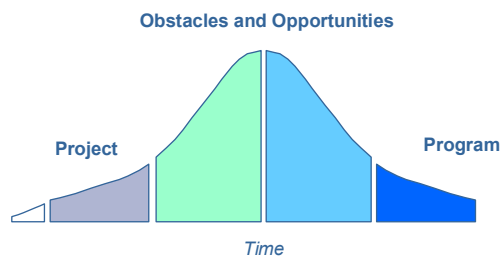
U.S. Geological Survey Presentation: "Visitor Attitudes toward Charging Fees"
by Phadrea Ponds and Shana Gillette

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area

Visitor Attitude Towards Charging Fees

Purpose

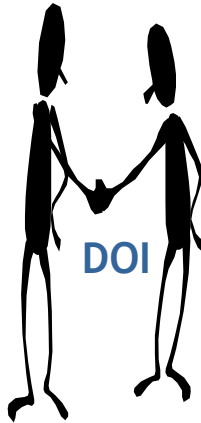
- To determine the obstacles and opportunities for the management of a fee demonstration program within the Colorado canyons NCA.



Collaborative Relationships

USGS Mission

Serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the earth ... and to enhance and protect our quality of life



BLM Mission

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Cross Cutting Relationship

“The BLM is committed to using the best scientific and technical information available to make resource management decisions and sharing that information with its partners.” - *BLM Strategic Plan (1997)*



Cross Cutting Relationship

"The USGS is committed to providing the best scientific and technical information possible to assist resource managers with their resource management decisions." - *USGS Strategic Plan (2000-2005)*



Objective

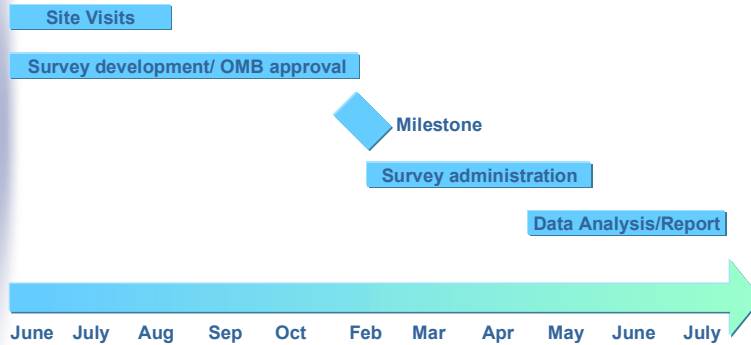
To seek to understand how humans are affected by the environment and to understand how human activities interact with natural resource management.





Schedule

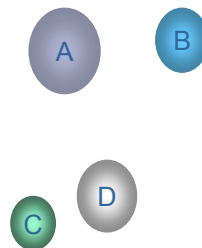
12-month schedule highlights



Our Role

To conduct basic social science research that will support the BLM Fee demo project

- A) Management Plan
- B) Survey Instrument
- C) Data
- D) Collaborative Partnerships





Fee Demonstration - Pros

- Popular because of their potential to raise needed revenue for operations, maintenance and improved recreation
- The ultimate objective of a fee demonstration program is to provide the quality of outdoor recreation



Fee Demonstration Program

- Developed in 1996 by Congressional Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and appropriations Act
- Directs 4 federal agencies (FWS, FS, NPS and BLM) to implement fee demonstration programs to help recover the cost of managing recreational opportunities
- Each agencies can implement no more than 100 programs





Fee Demonstration - Cons

- Can cause visitor displacement
- Can alter the relationship between the public and the agency to a more commercial exchange
- The fees will deter lower income users from visiting public lands



Fee Demonstration - Challenges

- Deciding whether a site warrants a fee program
- How to best plan and implement it
- Gaining public acceptance
- Determining the best use of the funds
- Providing a evaluation of the program
- These challenges must be addressed prior to imposing a fee system



COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA WILDLIFE

by Ron Lambeth

WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, and SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES ISSUES

Overview

The location and structure of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) is a relatively recent discovery of many recreationists. Many see this land as a platform for performing motion sports. Wildlife, like scenic beauty, are only serendipitous additions to these ventures. However, for some visitors, wildlife are the reason for the visit. Waterfowl hunters float the river and hike into Horsethief and Crow Bottoms to try their luck. Fishing, especially for channel catfish, is more common upstream of Horsethief Canyon, yet a select few take it into the canyons. Deer, elk and mountain lion hunting occurs south of the Colorado River. Rabbit Valley is designated a Colorado Important Bird Area and a Watchable Wildlife Site due to the educational importance of the area for Intermountain aridland wildlife and particularly to the presence of the rare Colorado birds, Scott's oriole and gray vireo. Every year in-state and out-of-state visitors come seeking these birds. The presence of other species best found in this vicinity increases the drawing power of the CCNCA, e.g., mockingbirds, sage and black-throated sparrows. Desert bighorn sheep provide the reason for some Grand Valley residents to choose to hike the wilderness area trying for a trophy glimpse. Other species find some of their best representations here and constitute a draw for a select group of biology students. These include Ord's kangaroo rat, night snake, leopard lizard, and the plants Jones' amsonia and Canyonlands Lomatium.

Species that catch the eye and add value to the experience of most visitors include pronghorn antelope, north of the interstate highway, and wintering bald eagles throughout. One pair of bald eagles remains through the summer, rare for Colorado and Utah. They produce one sometimes two young in some years in Ruby Canyon. Often golden eagles join the American symbol in flights over the river and across Rabbit Valley. The canyons and the river provide excellent habitat for raptors. There are five Peregrine Falcon eyries known in the CCNCA. This is a high density for this species, which was just removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999. While the eyries are extremely hard to find, the birds themselves are often seen by visitors floating the river. Screaming to be noticed from almost every river stretch is the spotted sandpiper, which whistles like it's calling your dog and makes low, stiff-winged flights from one gravel bar to another. Also bobbing up and down, calling for attention (often failing to get it from people) is the rock wren, frequenting the Trail Through Time and almost every other rocky site. The lizards, especially the colorful collared lizards, seldom fail to amuse a visitor during the warm seasons. Canyon tree frogs and red spotted toads provide baritone and soprano notes at canyon waterholes. The Colo Div. of Wildlife coordinates wildlife population management with the habitat management that the BLM is responsible for on the public lands in the CCNCA.

The Colorado River contains the humpback chub, razorback sucker, and pike minnow which are listed for protection by the federal Endangered Species Act. Sections in the Ruby Canyon of the Colorado River provide critical and unique habitat for the humpback chub. These sections are deep natural pools that are key to the life cycle of the chub. These pools are created by unique rock formations that constrict and deepen the river. The Colorado Rare Fishes Recovery Program of the Colo Div. of Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife Service will be allowed and fully supported by the BLM. The largest Colorado population of the rare plant of most interest to botanists in Mesa County clings to the soil around the bases of the rocks at the arches of Rattlesnake Canyon. This is the Canyonlands Lomatium (*Aletes latilobus*), whose known world population is limited to Mesa County and Grand County, Utah. Other special status plant species occur on the north side of the river and include the Jones' amsonia, Osterhout's catseye, desert candlestick, and Grand Valley buckwheat.

Abbreviations Used Below: AMJO=*Amsonia jonesii*, BTSp=black-throated sparrow, CaGo=Canada geese, CDOW=Colo Div. of Wildlife, CoTo=Townsend's big-eared bat, CREL=*Cryptantha elata*, CROS=*Cryptantha osterhoutii*, ERCO=*Eriogonum contortum*, EuMa=spotted bat, GOEA=golden eagle, GrVi=gray vireo, GuSG=Gunnison sage grouse, I-70=Interstate Highway #70, LOLA=*Lomatium latilobum*, MyTh=fringed myotis bat, MyYu=Yuma myotis bat, N=Northern, NoMo=Northern mockingbird, PEFA=peregrine falcon, PJ=pinyon pine and Utah juniper woodlands, ScOr=Scott's oriole, SwHa=Swainson's hawk, TaMe=Brazilian free-tailed bat

Issues in All Zones

1. Are there feasible measures available to prevent catastrophic fires?
2. What should the policy be on herbicides, pesticides, or toxicants in the CCNCA?
3. What animal damage control is appropriate in the CCNCA (coyotes, grasshoppers)?
4. How does hunting fit into the picture where there are many recreationists?
4. How do we tend our sensitive bat species needs (TaMe, EuMa, MyTh, MyYu, CoTo)?
5. Are any of the five sensitive plant species at risk (AMJO, CREL, CROS, ERCO, LOLA)?
6. Can we install a public information system that inspires a sense of public land ownership leading to guardianship?
7. How do we help visitors avoid the wildlife hazards (bites of gnats, rattlesnakes, pumas) without creating an outdoor experience "downer"?
8. Should we allow the final choice of a CCNCA logo that has no biological element in it?

Issues North of the River

1. How do we keep rock climbers off the active peregrine eyrie cliffs?
2. Can we close the trails that pass directly above peregrine eyries when the eyries are active?
3. Should the area north of I-70 be available for reintroducing black-footed ferrets?
4. Can the population swings of our keystone wildlife species, the white-tailed prairie dog, be dampened at a sufficiently numerous level?
5. Can the burrowing owl population be made more secure?
6. What is the limiting factor for kit foxes?

7. What is the limiting factor for pronghorn antelope north of I-70?
8. Is recreation traffic inhibiting nesting success in the specialty birds of the CCNCA (BTSp, GrVi, NoMo, ScOr, SwHa)?
9. How do we advertise the attractiveness of the area and improve it for birding?
10. Is water availability a limiting factor for chukars north of the river?
12. What will improve 6&50 Reservoir for wildlife?
13. Can we set defensible limits to change in the Rabbit Valley area?

Issues on Mack Ridge

1. Should the area north of I-70 be available for reintroducing black-footed ferrets?
2. Can the population swings of our keystone wildlife species, the white-tailed prairie dog, be dampened at a sufficiently numerous level?
3. Can the burrowing owl population be made more secure?
4. What is the limiting factor for kit foxes?
5. Is water availability a limiting factor for chukars north of the river?
6. Is recreation traffic inhibiting nesting success in the specialty birds of the CCNCA (BTSp, GrVi, NoMo, ScOr)?
7. What is the threshold past which a greater density of bike trails or more routes to the river would cause a notable drop in the wildlife along the routes?

Issues in the River Corridor

1. Can we prevent camping on Chow Doggone Island while Bald Eagles are nesting there?
2. Can we control camping under an eagle nest if the eagles relocate from year to year?
3. How do we keep rock climbers off the active peregrine eyrie cliffs?
4. Is recreation traffic inhibiting nesting success in the specialty birds of the CCNCA (cliff-nesting CaGo)?
5. Can fires from trains and river recreationists be controlled enough to reduce or reverse plant succession from native to exotic plants along the Colorado River?
6. Does water management in the Colorado River make moot the question of native riparian plants?
7. Are natural levies stabilized by exotic salt cedars preventing backwater formation & preservation?
8. What cooperative ventures are available in the restoration of Colorado River fishes?

Issues South of the River

1. How do we keep rock climbers off the active peregrine eyrie cliffs?
2. Can we close the trails that pass directly above peregrine eyries when the eyries are active?
3. Do enough N. goshawks winter in the Black Ridge area to merit management measures?
4. Where might recreation traffic inhibit nesting success in the specialty birds of the CCNCA (GOEA, GuSG, PEFA)?

5. Are canyon hikers and campers diminishing the value of pools for amphibians & bighorns?
6. Should we restrict travel on trails that pass through bighorn sheep lambing areas?
7. What measures are available to reduce predation losses in bighorn sheep (CDOW)?
8. Can we make fire improve bighorn sheep habitat and minimize harm or risk to other values?
9. Is it possible to create the open mature PJ stands believed to be the common pristine state?

Note

The issues above could not be phrased so as to have the answers resolve the issues. The reader should proceed to find solutions. Also note that discovering new issues is an ongoing process.

Wildlife Recorded in Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area

NOTE:

Code letters indicate the area in which the species was found.

C = Colorado River & Canyon N = north of Colorado River Canyon & not Rabbit Valley

R = Rabbit Valley

S = south of Colorado River Canyon & not Wilderness

W = Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness

Species in phylogenetic order, not alphabetic, because most fauna list users prefer the relatives grouped

Special Status Species (endangered, threatened, sensitive) are italicized.

List was last updated May 7, 2002. To offer information call Ron Lambeth at 970-244-3013.

Mammals

pallid bat - R
white-tailed prairie dog - N,R,S
Hopi chipmunk - N,R,W
rock squirrel - S,W
Northern grasshopper mouse- N
deer mouse - N
Ord's kangaroo rat - N,R
muskrat - C,S
porcupine - S,W
beaver - C
desert cottontail rabbit-C,N,S,W
black-tailed jackrabbit - N
mountain lion - W
long-tailed weasel - N
black bear - S,W
kit fox - R,N
coyote - N,S,W
pronghorn antelope - N,R
elk - S,W
mule deer - S,W
desert bighorn sheep - S,W

ring-necked duck - N
lesser scaup - N
common goldeneye - C,N
bufflehead - N
hooded merganser - N
common merganser - C
red-breasted merganser - N
ruddy duck - N
turkey vulture - C,N,R,W
bald eagle - C
northern harrier - N
sharp-shinned hawk - W
Cooper's hawk - C,N,W
Swainson's hawk - N
red-tailed hawk - C,N,R,W
ferruginous hawk - N
golden eagle - C,N,R,S
American kestrel - C,N,R,W
peregrine falcon - C,N,W
prairie falcon - N,R,W
chukar - C,R
ring-necked pheasant - N
wild turkey - C
sora - N

Baird's sandpiper - N
pectoral sandpiper - N
stilt sandpiper - N
long-billed dowitcher - N
common snipe - N
Wilson's phalarope - N
red-necked phalarope - N
Forster's tern - N
rock dove - C,W
mourning dove - C,N,R,W
white-winged dove - C
Western screech owl - C
great horned owl - C
burrowing owl - N
long-eared owl - N
common nighthawk - N,W
common poorwill - C
white-throated swift - C,N,R,W
black-chinned hummingbird - W
broad-tailed hummingbird -R,W
red-naped sapsucker - C
downy woodpecker - C
Northern flicker - C
Western wood pewee - C
dusky flycatcher - S
gray flycatcher - C,R,W
Say's phoebe - C,N,R,W
ash-throated flycatcher - C,R,W
Cassin's kingbird - R,S
Western kingbird - C,N,R,S
Eastern kingbird - N
horned lark - N,R
purple martin - N
tree swallow - N
violet-green swallow-
C,N,R,S,W
Northern rough-winged
swallow-C,N
bank swallow - N
cliff swallow - C,N,R
barn swallow - C,N,R

Birds

pied-billed grebe - N
eared grebe - N
great blue heron - C,N
black-crowned night heron - C
white-faced ibis - N
trumpeter swan - N
Canada goose - C,N
green-winged teal - C,N
mallard - C,N
Northern pintail - N
blue-winged teal - N
cinnamon teal - N
Northern shoveler - N
gadwall - N
American widgeon - N
canvasback - N
redhead - N

American coot - N
snowy plover - N
semipalmated plover - N
killdeer - N
mountain plover - R
black-necked stilt - N
American avocet - N
greater yellowlegs - N
lesser yellowlegs - N
solitary sandpiper - N
willet - N
spotted sandpiper - C,N
long-billed curlew - N
marbled godwit - N
semipalmated sandpiper - N
Western sandpiper - N
least sandpiper - N

Western scrub jay - C,W
 pinyon jay - C,R,W
 Clark's nutcracker - W
 black-billed magpie - C,N,R
 American crow - C,N
 common raven - C,N,R,W
 black-capped chickadee - C
 mountain chickadee - C
 juniper titmouse - C,N,S,W
 bushtit - C,R,W
 red-breasted nuthatch - C
 white-breasted nuthatch - C
 brown creeper - C
 rock wren - C,R,S,W
 canyon wren - C,R,W
 Bewick's wren - C,R,W
 ruby-crowned kinglet - C
 blue-gray gnatcatcher - C,R,W
 mountain bluebird - C,N,R,W
 Townsend's solitaire - C
 American robin - C,N
 gray catbird - C
 Northern mockingbird - N,R
 sage thrasher - N
 American pipit - N
 phainopepla - R
 loggerhead shrike - N,R
 European starling - C,N
gray vireo - N,R,S,W
 plumbeous vireo - C,W
 warbling vireo - C
 orange-crowned warbler - C
 Virginia's warbler - C,R,W
 yellow warbler - C
 yellow-rumped warbler - C
 Black-throated gray warbler - C,R,W
 Townsend's warbler - C
 black-&-white warbler - C
 MacGillivray's warbler - C,R,S

common yellowthroat - N
 Wilson's warbler - C,R
 Western tanager - W
 black-headed grosbeak - C
 blue grosbeak - C,N
 lazuli bunting - C,R
 green-tailed towhee - R
 spotted towhee - C,W
 American tree sparrow - N
 chipping sparrow - C,N,R,W
 Brewer's sparrow - C,N,R,W
 vesper sparrow - C,N,R
 lark sparrow - N,R,S
 black-throated sparrow - N,R,W
 sage sparrow - N,R,S
 lark bunting - N
 savannah sparrow - N
 song sparrow - N
 Lincoln's sparrow - R
 white-crowned sparrow - C,N,R
 dark-eyed junco - C,N
 snow bunting - N
 red-winged blackbird - N
 Western meadowlark - N,R
 yellow-headed blackbird - N
 great-tailed grackle - N
 brown-headed cowbird - N
 Bullock's oriole - C,N
Scott's oriole - N,R,S
 house finch - C,N,R
 pine siskin - C
 lesser goldfinch - C,W
 American goldfinch - C,N

Reptiles

collared lizard - N,R,S
leopard lizard - N
 Eastern fence lizard - S
 side-blotched lizard - R,S,W
 plateau whiptail - C

racer - N
 night snake - R
 gopher (bull) snake - N,S
western (midget-faded)
rattlesnake - W

Amphibians

bullfrog - C,S
 red-spotted toad - S
 Woodhouse's toad - C
canyon tree frog - W

Fish

white sucker - C
flannelmouth sucker - C,N
razorback sucker - C
bluehead sucker - C
 common carp - C
Colorado pikeminnow - C
bonytail chub - C
humpback chub - C
 speckled dace - C
 sand shiner - C
 red shiner - C
 fathead minnow - C
 channel catfish - C
 black bullhead - C
 plains killifish - C
 Western mosquito fish - C
 smallmouth bass - C
 largemouth bass - N,S
 green sunfish - C,N,S
 bluegill - N,S

Humble Taxa

cedar gnat - C,N,R,S,W
 boreal scorpion - R

Scratch Space

Special Status Species List*

for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area

Updated: August 29, 2002

Species	Status	Occurrence
MAMMALS		
Black-footed Ferret	FE,se	Re-introducible, prairie dog sites
River Otter	se	Reported above & below the NCA, re-introduced pop.
Kit Fox	se	Rabbit Valley
Spotted Bat	S	Hypothetical, heard in similar habitat nearby
Fringed Myotis	S	Hypothetical, PJ zone, known in similar habitat 24 mi away
Yuma Myotis	S	Hypothetical, Low country riparian areas
BIRDS		
Bald Eagle	FT,st	Nesting in Ruby Canyon, high winter use from river north
Western Burrowing Owl	st	Prairie dog towns, became scarce in 1998
White-faced Ibis	S	Migratory, roosts in ponds such as 6&50 Reservoir
Northern Goshawk	S	Especially along Black Ridge in winter
Ferruginous Hawk	S,sc	Year-round resident north of Colorado River
Peregrine Falcon	S	6 eyries in the NCA along the Colorado River
Gunnison Sage Grouse	S,sc	Historically occurred in the sagebrush N of 28-Hole
W. Snowy Plover	S,sc	At 6&50 Reservoir May 1 to 4, 2001
Mountain Plover	S	Proposed FT, seen a mile W of Salt Creek, 1/3 mile S of I-70
W. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	May be extirpated, tree/shrub riparia, common pre-1960s
Gray Vireo	P	In sparser PJ throughout NCA
Scott's Oriole	P	In scattered junipers throughout NCA
FISH		
Colorado Pikeminnow	FE,st	Colo R. is designated Critical Habitat in NCA
Razorback Sucker	FE,se	Colo R. is designated Critical Habitat in NCA
Humpback Chub	FE,st	At Black Rocks in the Colorado River
Bonytail Chub	FE,se	Last seen in Colo at Black Rocks, re-introductions planned
Brassy Minnow	st	Devil's Canyon Pond #1
Roundtail Chub	S,sc	Colorado River, can be abundant
Flannelmouth Sucker	S,sc	Colorado River and Salt Creek
HERPETILES		
Longnose Leopard Lizard	S,sc	Especially on greasewood flats
Midget Faded Rattlesnake	S,sc	Throughout NCA except in river and on annual flats
Utah Milk Snake	S	Hypothetical, but almost certainly present north of river
Northern Leopard Frogs	S,sc	May be extirpated
Canyon Treefrog	S,sc	All the canyons that have persistent pools
Great Basin Spadefoot Toad	S,sc	Hypothetical, in canyons nearby that are similar
PLANTS		
<i>Amsonia jonesii</i>	S	Rabbit Valley
<i>Astragalus musiniensis</i>	S	North of I-70
<i>Cryptantha osterhoutii</i>	S	Rabbit Valley
<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	S	Desert soils north of Colorado River
<i>Lomatium latilobum</i>	S	Rattlesnake Cyn. arches area has largest population in Colo
<i>Lygodesmia doloresensis</i>	S	Rabbit Valley, taxonomic question
<i>Pediomelum aromaticum</i>	S	Black Ridge Cyn. Wilderness

*Game species have status, but are not included here.

CODES:FE=federal endangered, federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

FT=federal threatened, under the federal ESA

C=candidate for protection under the federal ESA

S = BLM State Director's sensitive species, Inf. Bull. No. CO-2000-014

se = state endangered, protected by Colorado's ESA

st = state threatened, under Colorado's ESA

sc = Colorado Division of Wildlife's Species of Special Concern

P = A Colorado Partner's In Flight priority species, selected for its significance to the Grand Junction Field Office